Dear AP members,

As new Head of AP, I wish to reinforce your awareness of all safety issues.

I give safety a very high priority among my and the department's responsibilities. As educators, we must set the example for the next generation. In addition, no safety shortcut is justified against the risk to life and limb.

I come from a culture where safety concerns are paramount: for example, SLAC (the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in California) was shut down for almost 6 months recently, after an outside electrical contractor had half his body burned by an electrical arc, due to negligence; during those months, the hundreds of employees only planned for improved safety, stopping all normal activities. We want to avoid both such injuries and such loss of time.

I understand that the safety record of AP is good, and I congratulate you all for that. But this creates the risk of complacency: we should not relax our efforts, but actually increase them.

Thank you for redoubling your awareness of safety issues,

Michel Van Hove